

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regard to the claims, the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly teach the specific circuit configuration with emphasis on the sum of the electrically adjustable attenuation provided by the signal paths adds to unit and the input signal is delayed by an adjustable time depending upon the attenuation provided by the signal paths.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIMBERLY E. GLENN whose telephone number is (571)272-1761. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (571)-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2817

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kimberly E Glenn
Examiner
Art Unit 2817

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/K. E. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 2817

NOTE: This is a new office action without a reply. Mr. Richard Bauer (attorney of record) brought it the examiner attention that the reference Poskatcheev US Patent Application US 2006/0164145 has a filing date (January 21 2005) which is after the 371 international filing date (September 21 2004) of the present application . Therefore the Poskatcheev reference is not considered prior art.

/Robert Pascal/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2817